

TOWN OF MANSFIELD
OFFICE OF THE YOUTH SERVICES BUREAU

Patricia Michalak, MA
Youth Service Bureau Coordinator



YSB Advisory Minutes
December 8, 2015
12:00 noon @ Mansfield Town Hall
Conf. Rm. B

Board Members

Present:

Ethel Mantzaris, Chair
Pat Schneider, Director of Human Services
Patricia Michalak, YSB Coordinator
Maggie Ferron, Early Childhood Services Coordinator
Vicki Barbero, MEd, LADC, Program Director, Outpatient Co-occurring Substance Use Services
Chuck Leavens, E.O. Smith Representative
Eileen Griffin, LCSW
Larry Barlow- MMS Vice Principal
Annastasia Martineau, Senior at EO Smith High School and Mansfield Resident

I. Call to Order

- Meeting called to order at 12:02 PM by Ethel Mantzaris.

II. Introduction of Prospective New Members of Advisory Board:

- Julie Menard, a Social Worker in the state of Connecticut for the Department of Developmental Services was unable to attend this meeting and hopes to be at next month's meeting. She is a Mansfield resident and parent of two adult children who have been through the Mansfield school system.

III. Approval of minutes

- Approval of minutes 11/10/15

IV. Reports

- Director's Report – Patricia Schneider
 - We are full into the holiday program with donations coming in, it is going well and starting early has made organization easier and more effective this year.
 - With budget season starting soon and the town needing to be conservative about budgeting, grant advocacy will be worked towards to protect youth programs.
 - Clinical Social Work position should be filled by January, it is currently being worked on although there are many recruitments needed due to retirements

- Coordinator's Report – Patricia Michalak

"Kids Night Out": Interns, Lauren Scharn and Brianna McMillan, coordinated with the school psychologist, Shamim Patwa, at Goodwin Elementary to provide a night of fun for children with special needs. Several special education teachers and school nurses were recruited for the event to ensure that each students' needs were met adequately. The night had 10 students, and was a great success. Though this was a pilot night, parents have encouraged staff to recreate the event.

Veteran's Luncheon: Staff assisted the Senior Center in recognizing veterans at the community center.

Staff Trainings: Staff attended Mental Health First Aid USA workshop.

Grandparent's Group: Had a guest speaker Marion Donato the Coordinator of Grandparent resources for the area agency on Aging in Norwich CT. Her area covers NE CT from MA/RI border down to New London.

LEAP Transition to Middle School: Staff has started working with Goodwin and Southeast PE teachers to start planning the second year of the program.

Conversation Club: had two additional sessions at the community center.

Educational Playcare: Toured the new facility and met with the director. Shared the services the town and the human service department as to offer for families.

Black Friday Scavenger Hunt: Early Childhood Services Coordinator published a Black Friday Scavenger Hunt to encourage outside activity on Black Friday.

V. New Business:

- **Appropriate Playground Use:** There have been some concerns about safe and acceptable playground use for all age groups. How to create awareness and sensitivity and ensure safety in the community is being discussed.
- **Educational Playcare:** Toured the new facility located in the Storrs Center, and met with the director. Shared the services the town and the human service department as to offer for families.
- **Conversation Club Participation:** Although it had a slow start, the last meeting had an abundance of people attend, and additional outreach is being done to encourage families to join.

VI. Other:

- None
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VII. Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned at 12:40pm, January 12th, 2016 is the next meeting.